

Contact: Tom Cook 406-444-1645 Release: Receipt

SOCIETY HAS SNEAK PREVIEW OF KEN BURNS' PARKS DOCUMENTARY

Filmmaker Ken Burns has long been a fan of the Montana Historical Society's Research Center, and that relationship is coming back to the state with a special preview of his upcoming "The National Parks: America's Best Idea."

Burns and historian Dayton Duncan have spent nearly six years on the National Parks documentary that will be presented as a six-episode series on PBS in the fall of 2009.

On Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Emerson Cultural Center Auditorium in Bozeman, the Society will present "Montana's Sneak Preview of the National Park: America's Best Idea."

Filmed at some of nature's most spectacular locales from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska the production focuses on the ideas and individuals that created the nation's grand system of parks.

Burns and Duncan will talk about and show video clips of the new production and answer questions from the audience. Society Director Richard Sims will introduce the program.

The Society has the premier collection of Yellowstone National Park photographs including the work of F. Jay Haynes who began taking photographs of its wonders before it became the nation's and the world's first national park.

The new production will include rich and poor, famous and unknown and all of the “people who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved, and in doing so reminded their fellow citizens of the full meaning of democracy,” Burns said.

Tickets are \$15 and limited to the first 650 people who buy them. They will be sold at the Society Museum Store in Helena, Cactus Records in Bozeman or on-line at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org.

There will be a book and video signing event by Burns and Duncan after the talk. All proceeds will benefit the work of the Montana Historical Society.